



# SCHOOL BUS, INC.

5100 W. 8th Street • Sioux Falls, SD 57107 • (605) 334-6644 • Fax (605) 334-4245

Steven C. Hey, President  
Jim W. Shafer, Manager

## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION "POINT OF CONTACT"** **JUNE 2007 NEWSLETTER**

### **FMCSA publishes proposed UCR fees**

In Tuesday's Federal Register, FMCSA published a proposal for the Unified Carrier Registration Plan fees. As you remember, FMCSA proposed in 2005 to replace four different registration systems for motor carriers with the UCR. At that time, NSTA submitted comments to the docket maintaining that school buses providing interstate activity trips that begin and end at school are exempt from fees under the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995. FMCSA has never published a final rule on UCR, so has not responded to our comments. In another rulemaking last year, however, the agency agreed that school bus companies do not have to acquire operating authority (one of the four registration systems) for interstate activity trips. Our issue was complicated by SAFETEA-LU, which eliminated previous exemptions from the Single State Registration System (SSRS). Under today's proposal—which deals only with fees, not with any other issues of the UCR plan—fees will apply to all carriers required to have a USDOT number. Companies listed in DOT's MCMIS database will be notified by their state DOT that they must register under the UCR. That means that if you have a USDOT number, you will receive a notification. If your state is a participant (36 are), you will register there. If not, you will register with the participating state in which you do the most business, or with one of the participating states in your FMCSA region. Fees are based on fleet size, and were calculated to reach the targeted amount that states need to replace the SSRS revenues, as directed by SAFETEA-LU. Since your fee will be determined by the number of commercial motor vehicles you have reported to DOT on your MCS-150 form, you may need to check those numbers to be sure you have reported only those buses that travel out of state once the rule is finalized.

Proposed fees are:

0-2 vehicles \$39 total

3-5 \$116

6-20 \$231

21-100 \$806

101-1,000 \$3,840

1,001+ \$37,500

You can read the NPRM at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/07-2652.htm>. Comments on the proposal are due by June 13.

### **Texas Passes a Seat Belt Bill**

Texas has become the second state to require lap/shoulder belts in new school buses, and the first state to require restraints in motor coaches—at least on paper. The legislature passed a bill requiring lap/shoulder belts in new school buses as of September 1, 2010. The bill also requires lap/shoulder belts in any school chartered bus, which would include motor coaches chartered for activity trips, as of September 1, 2014. Originally, it included transit buses transporting students as well, but that language was removed before passage. The "out" in this law is that it does not take effect unless the legislature appropriates funding specifically to reimburse districts for the cost of the bill. There is no funding associated with the bill this year, but the lead sponsor has said he will introduce a funding bill next year. You may remember that Louisiana passed a similar bill in 1999 that was supposed to take effect in 2002, but only if the legislature provided funding. They still haven't done so.

## **WORK ZONE DRIVING SAFETY**

It's spring and construction zones are blooming like spring flowers in Northern states. They seem to be increasing in number everywhere and some state statistics verify this assumption. Roadway construction is so prevalent that it is estimated that the majority of all drivers, not just school bus drivers, travel through a highway construction zone at least once every day. This results in traffic congestion. As congestion builds, crash rates increase. Factors leading to work zone accidents include:

- Inattentive drivers
- Drivers who are unsure of work zone traffic control directions
- Those who drive aggressively to minimize delay
- Work zone areas that are unclearly marked
- Failure to provide proper personnel to control traffic
- Improper placement of barricades, signs, and other traffic control devices

Because of these factors a zero tolerance for speeding in an active work zone has developed in many states. The following is a summary of the some provisions established in some areas to minimize work zone accidents:

- Headlights on
- Prompt Removal of Traffic Control Devices
- Speed-Monitoring Devices
- Increased Penalties and Doubled Fines
- Posting of Active Work Zones
- Reduce Your Speed and Take Your Turn
- Pay Attention
- Be Ready for Anything

This article was provided by Keystone Insurance.

## **REMEMBER TO GET REGISTERED FOR THE 2007 ANNUAL SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING and TRAIN the TRAINER SESSIONS**

The first TTT session will be in Sioux Falls, SD on Monday, July 23, 2007 at School Bus, Inc., 5100 W 8<sup>th</sup> St. (from the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> St & Marion Rd, go 1 block east on 8<sup>th</sup> St).

The second TTT session will be in Pierre, SD on Tuesday, July 24, 2007 at the State Library Building. The meeting room is on the main floor, just to the right inside the front door. The address is 800 Governors Dr. - located just above the Kneip Bldg. Take the street (E Broadway St) on the North side of the State Capitol and go East to Governors Drive. Turn north and go to the address above.

The third TTT session will be in Douglas, SD on Wednesday, July 25, 2007 at the Douglas Carrousel Elementary School at 421 Don Williams Dr. It is located from exit number 67 off of I-90 go north on Liberty Blvd, this will curve to the west, then turn north on Tower Rd, to Don Williams Dr and then turn west again.

**Classes may be limited to the capacity of the room. Please register early. These will be the only three TTT classes held this year. Cost for each attendee will be \$75.00 per person. You may bring a check made payable to School Bus, Inc. the day of the training, pre-pay by sending us a check in the mail or we will bill the company (cost for non-tax exempt companies attending in the following cities will be: Sioux Falls \$79.44 w/tax, Pierre & Douglas \$79.50 w/tax) or school district after the training is completed. School Bus, Inc. will purchase a set of tapes for the TTT to use for their training. All attendees should bring a notebook, pen and pencil for the classes. The deadline for TTT registration will be Friday, July 2, 2007 for all three classes. You may register for any class by calling Jim Shafer (605-334-6644), sending a fax (605-334-4245) or an email to: [jimschoolbusinc.sfsd@k12.sd.us](mailto:jimschoolbusinc.sfsd@k12.sd.us) Please reference "TTT, date and location you wish to attend".**

# SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING 2007

~See registration methods below each section~

## Train the Trainer Training (TTT)

July 23 / 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (CST)	July 24 / 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (CST)	July 25 / 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (MST)
Sioux Falls	Pierre	Douglas
School Bus, Inc. 5100 W 8 <sup>th</sup> St.	State Library 800 Governors Dr.	Carousel Elementary 421 Don Williams Dr.

You may register for any TTT class by calling Jim Shafer (605) 334-6644, faxing Jim at (605) 334-4245, or sending an email: [jimschoolbusinc.sfsd@k12.sd.us](mailto:jimschoolbusinc.sfsd@k12.sd.us)

Please reference "TTT, date and location you wish to attend"

## Bus Driver In-Service Schedule

### JULY

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
July 26	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (MST)	Lead High School
July 27	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (CST)	Pierre Indian Learning Center
July 30	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (CST)	Huron High School
July 30	4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (MST)	Murdo School
July 31	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (MST)	Todd County School
July 31	4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (MST)	Kadoka School

### AUGUST

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Aug. 1	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (MST)	Shannon Co. School
Aug. 2	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (CST)	Mobridge – Dacotah Bank
Aug. 2	5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (MST)	Bison School
Aug. 3	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (CST)	Hoven School
Aug. 3	5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (CST)	Watertown - LATI BIT Bldg.
Aug. 7	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (CST)	Kimball School
Aug. 7	4:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (CST)	Redfield School
Aug. 8	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CST)	Sioux Valley School
Aug. 8	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (CST)	Madison Central School
Aug. 9	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CST)	Yankton High School
Aug. 9	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (CST)	West Central School
Aug. 10	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CST)	Flandreau High School
Aug. 13	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CST)	Watertown - LATI BIT Bldg.
Aug. 13	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (CST)	Sisseton High School
Aug. 14	5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (CST)	Milbank - Otter Tail
Aug. 15	5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (CST)	Clark - Playhouse Pizza
Aug. 16	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (CST)	Ipswich School
Aug. 16	4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (CST)	Aberdeen – Ramada Inn
Aug. 20	5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (CST)	Webster – Court House

Space is limited at each location, please register at least two weeks prior to the class.

**To register, contact Donna at Harlow's Bus Sales, Inc.**

ph: 605-345- 4023 or

email : harlowsd@itctel.com

The information in this newsletter is distributed for information purposes only. It does not represent legal advice.